

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
ROCK HILL DIVISION

Hugh D. Hardy, II,	)	Civil Action No.: 0:17-cv-00196-RBH
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	<b>ORDER</b>
	)	
Nancy A. Berryhill, Acting Commissioner	)	
of the Social Security Administration,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

On April 21, 2018, Plaintiff filed a motion for attorney's fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act,<sup>1</sup> asserting the position taken by Defendant in this action was not substantially justified. *See* ECF No. 25. On May 7, 2018, the parties filed a joint stipulation agreeing to an award of \$7,200.00 in attorney's fees. *See* ECF No. 26. The joint stipulation provides that the attorney's fees award should be paid to the claimant (not his attorney) and is subject to the Treasury Offset Program<sup>2</sup> if the claimant owes an outstanding debt to the federal government.

After careful consideration, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant to pay Plaintiff attorney's fees in the amount of \$7,200.00, subject to the Treasury Offset Program provision in the joint stipulation. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), the attorney's fees will be paid directly to the claimant and mailed to his attorney, with a copy sent to the claimant.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

May 10, 2018  
Florence, South Carolina

s/ R. Bryan Harwell  
R. Bryan Harwell  
United States District Judge

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<sup>1</sup> 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

<sup>2</sup> 31 U.S.C. § 3716.